

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1-8 with Claims 1 and 6-8 being independent. Claims 1-5 were provisionally elected with traverse and Claims 6-8 were withdrawn. It is requested that the Examiner rejoin Group II, Claims 6-8, once the claims of Group I, Claims 1-5, are deemed allowable. If the process to make the product is deemed allowable, then the product made by that process should, likewise, be deemed allowable under MPEP §821.04. Accordingly, Claims 6-8 were amended to be commensurate with Claim 1. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

The independent claims were amended to provide that the member is cylindrical as supported on page 18, lines 14-17, Figs. 4 and 5 and the Examples (i.e. page 25, line 10 “an aluminum cylinder” is used to make a cylindrical photosensitive member). Support for the angles α° and β° from 85° - 180° is found in Example 5, $\alpha=85^\circ$, Example 7, $\beta=85^\circ$; and page 11, lines 5 and 6, wherein α° and β° is less than 180° .

The phrase “at a preset position” is deleted since an arbitrarily determined position is decided upon when making the cut in the dried film. Accordingly, the phrase is extraneous.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as obvious on Yoshihara ‘588 in view of Swain ‘349, Meyer ‘872 and Smith ‘643. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the rejection applicants wish to briefly review several features of the present claimed invention. In the present invention a cut is made in a dried coated film (such as a photosensitive layer) in its peripheral direction to remove the film from the cut to its end. A gas jet is used to make the cut. The cutting angle α° and the gas jetting angle β° are from 85° to less than 180° . As noted in the Examples and at page 9, line

26 to page 11, line 6 the cutting angle and jetting angle are selected to enhance removal of the end portion and to reduce lifting on the film which is not to be removed. As further shown in Comparative Examples 2-6 removal of end portions was conducted not by a gas jet, but mechanically with a wheel or brush, with ultrasonic waves, with a liquid solvent spray or with a water jet. The results in Table 1 show problems with film removal unless gas jetting was employed.

In Yoshihara '588, not only is the photosensitive layer cut, but also the support for the photosensitive layer is removed. In Col. 3, lines 38-67, Col. 4, lines 55-68 lines and Col. 5, lines 7-20 Yoshihara discloses that both the coating film and the underlying cylindrical substrate are removed. Further, a conventional cutting bit is employed, not a gas jet, see Yoshihara Col. 5, lines 7-20 and Examples 1-4.

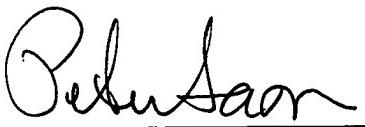
In the present invention the cutting angle for removing the end portion of the film is important. In Yoshihara, since both the film and the end of the support are removed, the concept of cutting angle of the surface of the film is meaningless, since it is the support which is removed which carries the film. Further, applicants have demonstrated that using mechanical cutting, such as in Yoshihara, causes problems which they have solved by gas jetting.

The secondary references fail to teach the problems of removal of film from end portions of the support, nor the solution to such problems by using a gas jet to reduce lifting and to expedite removal. Swain uses a laser beam to polish or machine film surfaces. Smith uses an air-knife to remove liquid toner from a conductive surface. Meyer cleans a workpiece with a compressed air jet.

Therefore, none of the references, whether considered alone or combined, teach the present invention, nor render it unpatentable. The claims should be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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